From: Chester, Jennifer
To: Heidi Ochis
Cc: Rankin, Dennis - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Tristate San Luis Valley - Calumet - Comanche Transmission Project
Date: Friday, September 04, 2009 11:15:53 AM

Heidi-
Thank you for your interest in the San Luis Valley - Calumet - Comanche Transmission Project. Answers to your questions can be found below. If you have additional comments regarding the project, please submit them via the online comment form at www.socotransmission.com or by email to info@socotransmission.com or directly to the RUS by September 21, 2009.
Thank you,
Jennifer Chester

1. On the SoCo Transmission website, the detailed maps show multiple "Preliminary Alternative Routes" (drawn in magenta). The visual simulations illustrate only one route. Is there a preferred route? How was the illustrated powerline chosen when multiple alternative routes fall in the viewport?

A preferred route has not yet been selected for the San Luis Valley – Calumet – Comanche Transmission Project. Photos used were selected from 141 different vantage points for simulation purposes such that each provided a representative view of a landscape type within the project area. In cases where multiple preliminary alternative routes were identified in proximity to a photograph, the route selected for purposes of display in the photo-simulation was generally the most visible within the photograph's range. Preliminary route alternatives in close proximity to the location where the photo was taken may not have been visible in the simulation and thus were not selected for use.

2. What was the camera's field of view for the simulated photographs?

Photos were taken with a digital camera and fixed lens that closely approximates the human field of vision with the field of view for a single image being 36.244 degrees. In most cases, multiple photos were taken and stitched together using software which removes the distortion caused by the lens on the edges of the photo. The field of view of the simulated photographs varies depending on the number of photos stitched together and the corresponding overlap.

3. What was the height of the poles used in the simulation?

For the purpose of the simulations, structures were modeled at a height of 120 feet. A combination of lattice steel structures and steel poles will be used on the San Luis Valley – Calumet portion of the project, and steel poles will be used on the Calumet – Comanche portion of the project. Actual heights of the structures and the type of structure to be used will be determined based upon final design and engineering of the transmission line and will vary depending upon span length and terrain, and will generally range in height between 100 and 150 feet.

From: Heidi Ochis [mailto:hiho@ctmap.com]
Sent: Mon 8/31/2009 3:29 PM
To: Chester, Jennifer
Subject: Tristate San Luis Valley - Calumet - Comnche Transmission Project

Visual Simulation Questions:

I-323-001

1. On the SoCo Transmission website, the detailed maps show multiple "Preliminary Alternative Routes" (drawn in magenta). The visual simulations illustrate only one route. Is there a preferred route? How was the illustrated powerline chosen when multiple alternative routes fall in the viewport?

2. What was the camera's field of view for the simulated photographs?

3. What was the height of the poles used in the simulation?

Thanks,

Heidi Ochis
CTM
303-444-1670
hiho@ctmap.com

I-323-001: Visual and Aesthetic (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to visual and aesthetic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm.